# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3721
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Conservation of Pangolin
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any study has been conducted on the extinction of the prehistoric mammal Pangolin in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it is a fact that this animal is being killed for medicinal values and trading with neighbouring countries; and
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the conservation efforts being made for the said species?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change conducts survey of threatened and important species of the country. There has been no specific study conducted on the extinction of the pre-historic mammal Pangolin in the country by Zoological Survey of India.
However, as part of the monitoring and inventorying of the Indian faunal diversity, ZSI has carried out a few general studies on two species of Pangolins in India. According to published reports of ZSI there are two species of Pangolins found in India, namely, Indian Pangolin Manis crassicaudata E. Geoffroy, 1803, and Chinese Pangolin Manis pentadactyla Linnaeus, 1758. Both the above species are listed under the Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. As per the IUCN Red List category, the Chinese Pangolin is Critically Endangered and Indian Pangolin comes under Endangered category.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has taken several steps to conserve the wildlife and species which are threatened and endangered.
The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been enacted for protection of wild animals, birds and plants against hunting and commercial exploitation. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

The animal, Pangolin, is very often killed for traditional medicinal purposes and illegal trading to foreign countries. WCCB has been seizing large number of Pangolin skins for last few years.
Number of steps like Intelligence led enforcement, sensitization on smuggling wildlife articles to Border Guarding forces and Customs, Interagency coordination of enforcement, inclusion of wildlife smuggling in bilateral and multilateral discussion have been undertaken by WCCB.

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